Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 OES-07 SY-05 /095 W ------120534 040708Z /11

R 030604Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1672
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
ERDA HQ GERMANTOWN
ERDA HQ WASHDC

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, MNUC, TECH, AS, US

SUBJ: DEPARTMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXPLAINS NUCLEAR DOCUMENT LEAK

REF: CANBERRA 7630

- 1. DFA DEPUTY SECRETARY HENDERSON CALLED DCM MORNING OF NOVEMBER 3 TO QUOTE EXPLAIN UNQUOTE LEAK OF JUSTICE FIX DOCUMENT (REFTEL). SUBSEQUENTLY DCM WAS CALLED TO DFA BY ECONOMIC DIVISION FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMPHREYS.
- 2. IN OBVIOUS EMBARRASSMENT HUMPHREYS POINTED OUT THAT LEAKED TWO-PAGE MEMCON OF FOX'S THREE AND HALF HOUR BRIEFING WAS BOUND TO GIVE ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION OF FOX'S TRUE REMARKS AND FEELINGS ABOUT US POLICY.
- 3. AFTER MAKING SEVERAL QUOTE CLARIFICATIONS UNQUOTE, HUMPHREYS NOTED THAT FOX HAD SINCE RETURNED TO US AND TWO WEEKS AGO HAD HAD FULL AND COMPLETE TALKS WITH WASHINGTON OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN ATOMIC ENERGY POLICY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE HAD IN FACT SENT PRIME MINISTER FRASER A LETTER SOME TEN DAYS AGO EXPRESSING HIS (FOX'S) FINDINGS; IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE PM FOX LAST NIGHT HAD AUTHORIZED LATTER TO RELEASE PART OF THE LETTER, WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HAD DONE TODAY IN PARLIAMENT DURING QUESTION TIME. THAT RELEASE HAD QUOTED FOX AS TELLING THE PRIME MINISTER QUOTE I FIND MYSELF NOW IN ALMOST

COMPLETE HARMONY WITH THE VIEWS OF LEADING US OFFICIALS. UNQUOTE.

COMMENT:

IT IS IRONIC THAT CLEANING UP THE EFFECT OF THIS LEAK IS PROABLY JIM HUMPHREY'S LAST ACTIVE ROLE IN THE ATOMIC ENERGY FIELD, AS NEXT WEEK ROY FERNANDEZ TAKES OVER A NEW DIVISION WHICH INCLUDES ALL FACETS, (POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, NON-PROLIFERATION, ETC) OF ATOMIC ENERGY. FERNANDEZ NOW STARTS OUT WITH A CLEAN COPYBOOK.

HUMPHREY SAID THAT TRACING THE LEAK IS PROVING VERY DIFFICULT.
ALSTON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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Subject: DEPARTMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXPLAINS NUCLEAR DOCUMENT LEAK

TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, MNUC, TECH, AS, US

To: STATE Type: TE

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Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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